Questions for Discussion and Reflection

1. What inspired you to read this book? What themes and messages stood out?

2. Did reading this memoir change your perspective on child sex trafficking, child sexual slavery, or the effects of childhood trauma?

3. What did you consider to be the darkest moment? The most inspiring or touching?

4. Did anything in the author's story mirror something from your own life?

5. What contributed more to the child's suffering, individual evil or systemic failure?

6. What coping mechanisms did the author use as a child? Do those strategies affect her later in life?

7. How does the lack of empathy common to narcissists play into the dynamic of the parents' inaction (the mother) or involvement (the father) in her abuse?

8. Have you ever been afraid to speak up because you didn't think you would be believed?

9. What was the most pivotal moment, experience, or interaction in the author's journey?

10. Discuss validation. What does it mean to truly listen to and honor a survivor's account?

11. In light of the memoir you just read, do you believe forgiveness is a necessary step for healing?

12. What, if anything, has changed since the 1960s and 1970s in terms of women feeling safe to talk about having been abused? Does society tend to believe women more now than they did back then?

13. How did you feel about the ending? Was there any closure?

14. Did this memoir touch you or inspire you to act in some way?